

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 02163 241934Z

67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /083 W

----- 077509

R 241820Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8261

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 2163

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PO, SP, BR

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN REACTION TO DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, FOREIGN MINISTRY'S WESTERN EUROPE DIVISION CHIEF, WHO RECENTLY ARRIVED FROM TOUR IN LONDON, NOTED POLICY ON PORTUGAL BEING FORMULATED AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF MINISTRY, AND OFFERED AS PERSONAL OPINION THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A. DESPITE SOME ANTI-BRAZILIAN MANIFESTATIONS BY SMALL GROUPS OF PORTUGUESE IN LISBON AFTER MARCH 11 COUP ATTEMPT, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE GOP ITSELF HARBORED ANY SUSPICION OR ILL FEELING ABOUT BRAZIL. FOR INSTANCE, HE ADDED (NOT, WE THINK, MALICIOUSLY), THERE HAD BEEN NO PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENT BY THE GOP LINKING BRAZIL TO ATTEMPTED COUP NOR ANY EFFORT TO WHIP UP PUBLIC SENTIMENT AGAINST BRAZIL; RELATIONS CONTINUED ON NORMAL DAY-TO-DAY BASIS. (HE CONFIRMED THAT GOB HANDLING OF SPINOLA ASYLUM WAS DESIGNED TO SHOW PIQUE AT SPANISH FAILURE TO CONSULT IN ADVANCE AND TO SHOW GOP THAT BRAZIL NOT ANXIOUS TO RECEIVE HIM.)

B. GOB CONTINUING PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO UNPREDICTABLE COURSE OF EVENTS IN PORTUGAL, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION SOMEWHAT DISTURBING, BUT ESSENTIAL CONSERVATISM OF PORTUGUESE PEOPLE MILITATES AGAINST LEFTWARD SHIFT OF BODY POLITIC AND GREAT MAJORITY OF OFFICER CORPS, REFLECTING POPULAR SENTIMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRASIL 02163 241934Z

WOULD BE QUICK TO SPOT AND RESIST ANY STRONG SUCH SHIFT

ON PART OF COUNCIL.

C. REGARDLESS OF EVENTS IN LISBON, BRAZIL WOULD CONTINUE CARRY OUT ITS INITIATIVES IN FORMER PORTUGUESE AFRICA AND REGARDED TWO SITUATIONS AS SEPARABLE.

D. CERTAIN BODY OF OPINION IN BRAZIL APPREHENSIVE AND EVEN ALARMED OVER EVENTS IN PORTUGAL, BUT MOST TOOK MORE MODERATE VIEW.

2. COMMENT: THESE VIEWS FAITHFULLY REFLECT THE MINISTRY'S EFFORTS TO PRESENT A CALM FACADE (FOR INSTANCE, THE MINISTRY'S SPOKESMAN, ASKED ABOUT THE EFFECTS ON RELATIONS OF SPINOLA'S ASYLUM AND THE BANNING OF BRAZILIAN MUSIC FROM PORTUGUESE RADIO, ASSERTED BRAVELY THAT RELATIONS ARE "THE BEST POSSIBLE"). IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF, HOWEVER, OTHER ITAMARATY OFFICIALS (NOT DEALING WITH PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS) HAVE EXPRESSED DISTINCT CONCERN: ONE SAID HE EXPECTED COSTA GOMES TO BE NEXT PROMINENT ASYLEE HERE, AND READ RAPIDLY TO EMBOFF FROM TELEGRAM FROM BRAZILIAN EMBASS LISBON WHICH SPOKE OF DAY-BY-DAY RADICALIZATION AND CITED REPORT THAT EIGHTEEN MEMBERS OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL TIED TO (TEM COMPROMISSO COM) THE LEFT. END COMMENT.

3. UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN RIO,. SPINOLA WAS ALLOWED TO TALK BRIEFLY WITH REPORTERS. ASKED ABOUT CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL, HE REPLIED IT IS "SO CLEAR THERE IS NO NEED TO SAY ANYTHING MORE. ANY BRAZILIAN CAN DRAW HIS OWN CONCLUSIONS".

4. ACCORDING TO REPORT FROM O ESTADO'S LISBON CORRESPONDENT, "PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES AND THE MILITARY MEN WHO SUPPORT HIM ARE NOW WORRIED ABOUT THE IMAGE OF THE COUNTRY ABROAD. THE PORTUGUESE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IS RECEIVING INSTRUCTIONS TO TRY, BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS, TO GIVE GURANTEES THAT PORTUGUAL WILL CONTINUE TO BELONG TO NATO, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS WILL BE WELL RECEIVED (WITHIN THE LIMITS CALLED FOR BY THE SO-CALLED MELO ANTUNES PLAN), AND THE COUNTRY WILL DIRECT ITSELF TOWARD A PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY IN THE STYLE OF WESTERN EUROPE". ADDS O ESTADO, "A DIFFICULT TASK AFTER THE TRANSFORMATIONS CARRIED OUT IN THE MOVEMENT OF APRIL 25".

5. MEDIA TREATMENT HAS NOT BEEN UNANIMOUS (NOT SURPRISINGLY, CONSERVATIVE, PRESTIGIOUS O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO AND ITS COMPANION CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRASIL 02163 241934Z

JORNAL DA TARDE HAVE BEEN FOREMOST DOMM-SAYERS), BUT HAS TENDED WAVER BETWEEN HOPE THAT PORTUGUESE CHARACTER WILL REJECT DOGMATIC LEFTISM AND FEELING THAT IRREVERSIBLE DRIFT HAS BEGUN.
CRIMMINS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, FOREIGN RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRASIL02163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750103-0185
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750323/aaaaaunc.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRAZILIAN REACTION TO DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL
TAGS: PFOR, PO, SP, BR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006